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eration upon the year's work, is, I can assure my fellow employers, a very enviable experience." In fact, Mr. Bushill has shown in all his work, as in this book, a model of that type of Christian entrepreneur which the world is hungering for. In his firm faith in trades unions, (he even subscribed to sustain the workman's side of the famous dock laborers' strike) and in his wise counsel to employers to follow the advice of the Archbishop of Canterbury "to live in simple ways and on more brotherly terms with their employees," he reminds one of our own foremost profit-sharing capitalist, Mr. N. O. Nelsen of St. Louis. In May, 1892, in writing to the reviewer relative to his large manufactory of plumbing goods, Mr. Nelsen said: "From the first of this year we doubled the percentage allowed to wages. After paying six per cent. interest on capital, the wages fund gets twice as large a dividend as capital. *Capital was getting too much and wages too little.*" The italics are mine. It is pleasant to see in the rapid growth of profit-sharing during the last five years, as in some other ways, the development of this type of employer.

Mr. Bushill holds that after a close examination he can find but one or two instances in which profit-sharing has failed "when it has had a fair chance given to it." It is impossible to more than refer to the sensible suggestions in this book to workmen as well as employers, and to numerous side-lights upon the labor question, or to the fact, far from an isolated one in modern business experience, that a reduction from fifty-five to fifty hours a week did not involve any reduction in efficiency or daily output per man.

It would be very helpful if some American employer would follow Mr. Bushill's example in giving us the benefit of wide experience by himself and others in these matters.

EDWARD W. BEMIS.

The Condition of the Western Farmer as Illustrated by the Economic History of a Nebraska Township. By ARTHUR F. BENTLEY, A.B. Johns Hopkins University Studies in Historical and Political Science. Eleventh Series, Nos. vii-viii. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1893. 8vo. pp. 92.

THIS monograph is the result of an exhaustive investigation, on the spot, of Harrison township, Hall county, near the Platte river and on the Union Pacific railroad, 125 miles west of the Missouri river.

Many good reasons are given for considering this township typical of the average Nebraska conditions, being neither so dry as the western part of the state nor so well watered as some of the best portions. The results of this inquiry, which will supplement those of the mortgage department of the census, throw much valuable light both on issues raised by the Populists and by the Single-Taxers.

Contrary to the common statements of the former, but in accord with what the reviewer has observed in a few places where he has made inquiries in Iowa and Illinois, agricultural rents and the price of farm lands have been slowly rising for some years. In Harrison township, however, which is perhaps in this particular more typical of Nebraska than of Iowa or Illinois, the rise of land values seems to be in the face of declining profits in agriculture. Mr. Bentley accounts for the anomaly in two ways. First, that "the tradition of cheap farms easily obtainable still lingers in the minds of the people," though by far the most of the successful farmers in Harrison township were the early comers who obtained free but now exhausted government land and not those who purchased from the railroad or private owners. "One is almost tempted to draw the moral that the would-be purchaser, at least the one whose means are not sufficient to pay entirely for his farm and then tide him over all subsequent periods of hard times, had almost better throw his money away than invest it in farming operations in Nebraska at the current prices of land and under the present agricultural conditions; unless, indeed, he be possessed of unusual energy and ability." Under these circumstances Mr. Bentley presents a second reason for the mistaken bidding for Western land in "the slowness with which the true rate of agricultural profits can be estimated, owing to the great variations from year to year in the size of the crops and in the prices at which farm products will sell."

Another interesting conclusion of the author is that nearly all the profits that the Nebraska farmers have made have been in the rise in value of the "unearned increment" of the farms obtained years ago. Such facts as these may explain the slow growth of single-tax ideas outside our cities. In this connection may also be noted an observation of Professor John B. Clark, three years ago, that one of the chief reasons why the possibility of resort to farm lands led to higher wages in Chicago, St. Paul and other Western cities, was because the settler might secure this so-called unearned increment and so asks for more wages in the city. If this possibility had been taken away by taxa-

tion a depressing effect might have appeared on wages. Of course this would not affect the propriety of rent taxation in cities. To return to Mr. Bentley's valuable investigation. The results of a canvass of the conditions of every farmer in the township, past and present, he tabulates in twenty-two interesting tables. He finds that the farmer has not as good a market now as formerly, when he sold to other settlers and mine and railroad workers at high prices, whereas now he must give to the railroads for freight to Chicago one-third of the low price for corn obtainable there. Further, the settling up of the country and spread of the social conditions of the East, almost forces the self-respecting American-born farmer to a higher and more expensive standard of living than was thought of in the primitive sod hut. Here, by the way, is an important explanation of the depressed condition of Western agriculture. I have noticed in eastern Iowa how the American, with his decencies and comforts of life, is unable to pay off his mortgage, and is driven out by the cheaper living German, who soon clears off all debts, and vegetates in conditions somewhat like those in the old country. In the midst of such competition from our immigrants no wonder that the farmer finds the price of grain has fallen to his hurt more than have the prices of most other products covered in such multiple standard tables as those of Soetbeer. Even the fall in interest has been, in our author's opinion, counterbalanced by the greater amount of capital needed. In his typical township 65 per cent. of the acres are mortgaged for an average of \$8.78 an acre, or over one-third of their value.

E. W. B.

Prisoners and Paupers. By HENRY M. BOIES, M.A. New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons. 8vo. pp. 318.

THE author of this book undertakes to show the extent of crime and pauperism in the United States and to consider somewhat comprehensively the whole broad problem of their causes and remedies. The practical suggestions of the book are frequently good. Much of the statistical work is not good. Mr. Boies is unjustifiably pessimistic. He learns from the census returns that the number of prisoners in this country was about one-half more in 1890 than in 1880, while the population increased by only about one-fourth, and he finds that the government expenditure for almshouses has enormously